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a1 8. (AMENDED) A multi-directional laminate flooring panel for use in constructing a floor,  
said panel comprising:

a top surface, a bottom surface, a middle substrate, and sides extending between the top and bottom surfaces, wherein said sides have identical grooved profiles, wherein the thickness of the panel ranges from about .240 inches to about .320 inches.

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a2 9. (AMENDED) A multi-directional laminate flooring panel for use in constructing a floor,  
said panel comprising:

a top surface, a bottom surface and sides extending between the top and bottom surfaces, and a middle substrate between the top and bottom surfaces, wherein said sides have identical grooved profiles, and wherein the middle substrate of the panel comprises a material selected from the group of materials consisting of medium density fiberboard, high density fiberboard, wood/plastic compositions, woods, ceramics, unfilled plastics, filled plastics, closed-cell rigid foams, and combinations thereof.

10. (AMENDED) A multi-directional laminate flooring system comprising:

at least two panels, wherein each panel comprises a top surface, a bottom surface and sides extending between the top and bottom surfaces, wherein said sides have identical recessed profiles; and

a connector separate from said at least two panels for connecting the at least two panels together to form a floor, wherein the connector comprises a base having a projection extending